Wal-Mart opens

Tuesday's ceremonies greeted by throngs

MARBLE FALLS – The huge orange GRAND OPENING signs were plastered across the front of the new store. The parking lot was a sea of cars jockeying for parking space. Inside, shopping baskets were lined up in what must have seemed like endless lines to the checkers and baggers.

The new Wal-Mart store on north US 281 in Marble Falls is open.

"It looks great," Assistant Manager Vernon Steed said of the stream of customers entering the discount department store. "It's been building in speed by the minute."

When the customers were allowed in the store, there were no mad dashes, but no one was slow about it. As soon as they picked up a basket and sales circular, they headed down the store aisles looking for good deals on everything from sunglasses to shoes and school supplies.

Steed said he had no idea of how many people had passed through the store that morning, or even how many had been through since they first opened the doors on Saturday.

"We've had all kinds of folks through here," he said. "I've OK'ed checks from Llano and Lampasas and seen all my neighbors from Sunrise Beach. A pretty good surrounding area is represented from what I've seen."

Store hours will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Wal-Mart will join ranks with Winn's and the Lakeland Mall specialty shops and be open Sundays from 12:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Before the first customer arrived, Wal-Mart associates, as the employees are known, heard words of encouragement and praise from the district and regional managers. Several executive vice-presidents flew in from the general offices in Bentonville, Arkansas to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony and also offered advice to help them become the best store of the 800-plus in the chain.

At 9 a.m. Tuesday, Wal-Mart store number 781, District 67, Region 9 officially opened and became a part of the continuing growth of Marble Falls.

Wal-Mart manager Tom Patterson cuts the red ribbon and lets the customers into the store at the Grand Opening ceremonies of the Wal-Mart on US 281 north in Marble Falls on 9 a.m. Tuesday morning.

Patterson named Wal-Mart manager

MARBLE FALLS – Tom Patterson has been named Store Manager for the new Wal-Mart store in Marble Falls, according to Al Miles, Senior Vice President of Operations, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Bentonville, Arkansas. In making the announcement, Miles stated, "We are very pleased to have Tom managing the new Wal-Mart store. His knowledge of discount merchandising, Wal-Mart's competitive pricing philosophy, and guaranteed customer satisfaction will be an asset to the community, as well as our company."

Prior to his new assignment, Patterson served the company as Store Manager in Monett, Missouri and Leesville, Louisiana, and as Assistant Manager in Victoria, Texas since joining Wal-Mart in 1980.

Originally from Santa Rosa, Texas, Patterson, his wife, Wanda, and their children will make their home in Marble Falls.

Tom Patterson

Worker's compensation coverage increasing

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of its effort to stay abreast of developments in the securities field.

"The board is interested in making Texas a good place to do business," he comments.